

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	31 August 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Food Growing Sites – Hamilton Area
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update Committee on proposals for developing food growing sites in the Hamilton area

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the report be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. Following the introduction of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the Council's Food Growing Strategy was implemented in 2020.
- 3.2. The Council is legislatively required to increase food growing provision to meet waiting list demands and currently provides 6 council managed sites.
- 3.3. Since the draft guidance was introduced, additional food growing sites have been developed at Murray Recreation in East Kilbride, Fernbrae Meadows in Cathkin and Lammermoor in East Kilbride and a small site in Strathaven has recently been completed. Discussions are ongoing with Clyde Gateway about a potential site at Cuningar Loop in Rutherglen.
- 3.4. To date, efforts have concentrated mainly on East Kilbride and Cambuslang / Rutherglen areas due to higher levels of demand than other areas. However, there is now a reasonable level of demand in the Hamilton area to merit the creation of at least one site initially.
- 3.5. Demand in the Clydesdale area is comparatively low so following proposals for the Hamilton area, the possibility of creating smaller un-serviced sites will be developed to accommodate lower numbers in each area of demand.

4. Hamilton Area Provision

4.1. As at February 2022, 70 applications have been received from residents in the Hamilton area and another 29 from surrounding areas. Due to the size and spread of Hamilton, it is anticipated that we would require 2 sites: one to cover Hamilton, Blantyre and surrounding area and the other to cover Hamilton, Larkhall and surrounding area.

4.1.1 A site has been identified at Chatelherault (former garden centre) which would accommodate around 60-90 plot holders depending on who accepts a plot and what size they have requested as plots can be merged or divided to meet individual needs. Initial ground investigations and discussions with planning and roads are positive as there is adequate parking albeit plot holders would be advised when major events are taking place to avoid congestion (location plan – see Appendix 1).

4.1.2 A site has been identified adjacent to Springwells Hall which would accommodate up to 70 plot holders depending on SEPA restrictions. Initial ground investigations and discussions with planning and roads are positive, however, it has been indicated that we would be required to incorporate a small parking area (location plan – see Appendix 2).

5. Employee Implications

5.1. The identification, design, development and management of food growing sites is a key task of Amenity Services. The service currently employs 1.4 FTE for the operational management of 6 existing sites with further sites planned to meet our legislative obligations. To date, the increase in demand in this service area has been managed by realigning tasks and activities within the team. However, given the rate of expansion, further resource requirements to deliver this function effectively will be subject to review and a further report to Committee.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. £200,000 has been ringfenced as part of the Food Strategy Fund and it is anticipated that this will be utilised for at least one of the sites identified in the Hamilton area.

6.2. It is our intention to submit a formal planning application for each site to establish whether additional conditions are applied that would materially affect the cost of development. The outcome of these initial investigations may determine which site is progressed first and it normally takes around 1 year from planning consent to having an operational site, taking into account the detailed design, tender, contract award and construction process. The development of a 2nd site in the Hamilton area would be dependent on additional funding being identified.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

7.1. By promoting food growing which is environmentally friendly and helps tackle climate change, the Food Growing Strategy is aligned with the sustainable development and climate change objectives of the Council. More specifically, it supports the outcomes of the current Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy, in particular Outcome 1.2 stating that the Council is environmentally responsible in the procurement, use and disposal of resources. It also aims at connecting with the

community, partners and the private sector to reduce the impacts of the food system – from farm to fork - on the environment and its contribution to climate change.

8. Other Implications

8.1. There are no implications for risk currently identified in terms of the information contained within this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1. New sites are delivered as part of the overarching Food Growing Strategy 2020-2025 which has been impact assessed albeit the design for each individual site will be considered in relation to Disability Discrimination Acts (DDA) compliance. If approval is given to further investigate the feasibility of one or both sites, consultation will be carried out as part of the planning application process.

David Booth

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

10 August 2022

Links to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

Values

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable

Priorities

- ◆ We will work to put people first and reduce inequality
- ◆ We will work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places

Outcomes

- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities
- ◆ People live the healthiest lives possible

Previous References

- ◆ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee 4 November 2020 - Food Growing Strategy 2020-2025
- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 12 December 2019 – Proposals for Food Growing Strategy 2020 to 2025
- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 22 January 2019 – Allotments and Management Rules
- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 12 December 2017 – Consultation on Part 9, Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

List of Background Papers

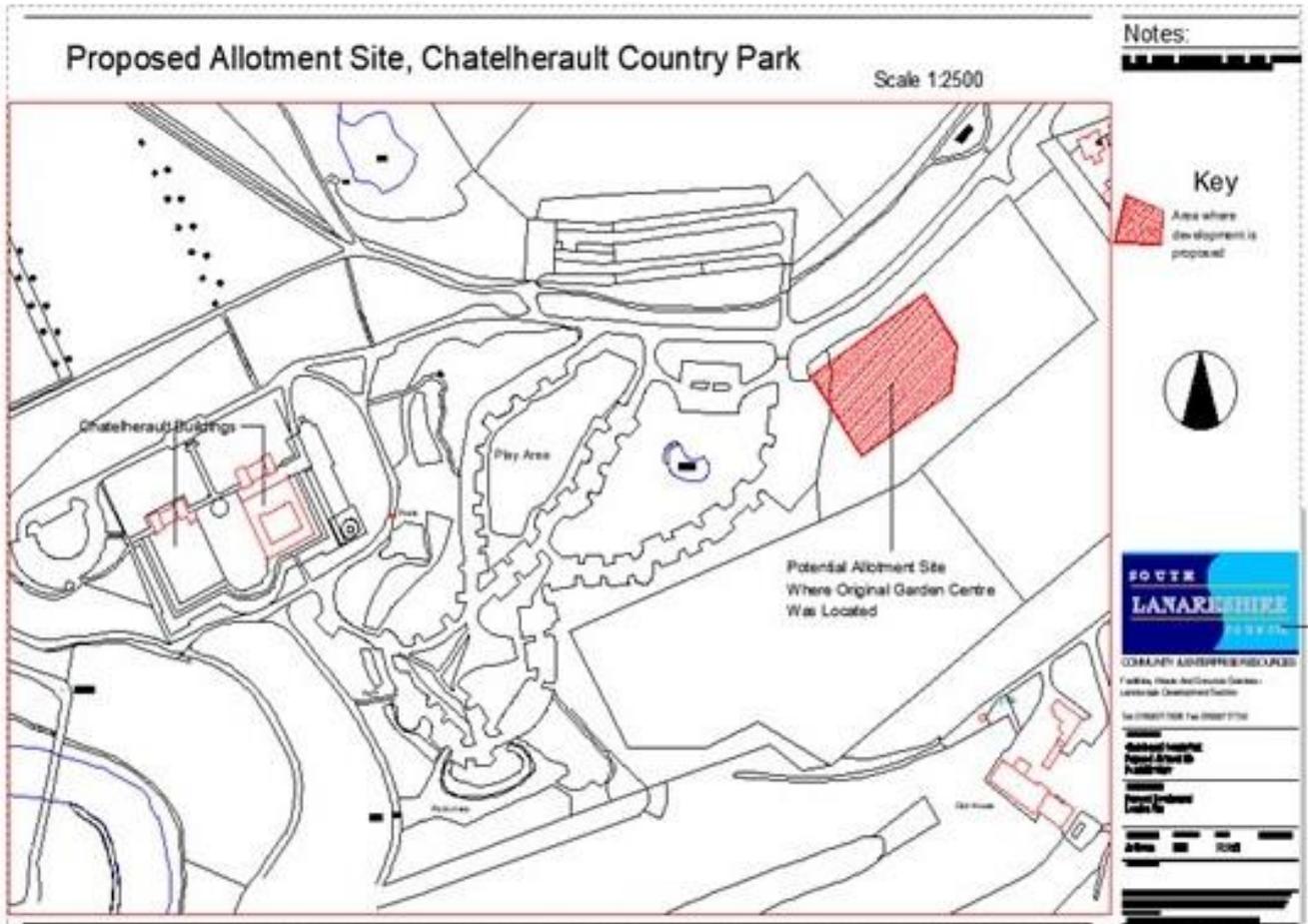
- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:

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Appendix 2

